

Application No.: 10/625,768

Amendment dated: January 12, 2005

Reply to Office Action of: September 21, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The abstract of the disclosure has been amended to correct the phraseology. Claims 1 and 10 have been amended to more accurately define the invention claimed.

Markle (US Patent No. 1,933,117) discloses a method of and means for making pipe extensions. The pipe extension comprises of a connector with a curved transversely disposed diaphragm. The diaphragm is weakened at predetermined points so that it will split apart along definite lines of cleavage responsive to mechanical pressure applied from the outside. The connector is attached to the end of a gas main. To extend the gas main, an extension pipe is inserted into the connector and then forced through the curved diaphragm, thereby breaking the seal. The gas main and the extension pipe are essentially the same diameter and the extension pipe does not insert into the gas main.

Dennehey et al. (US Patent No. 4,201,406) discloses a spike connector for solution bag comprising a rigid spike defining a longitudinal bore and having an angled tip. A flange extends outwardly from the rigid spike and a tube surrounds a major portion of the spike and extends in a generally parallel direction to the spike. The internal wall of the tube is spaced from the external wall of the spike. A spacer is interposed between the spike and the tube. No seal is provided either in the “spike” or in the “tube” surrounding the spike. Furthermore, neither the “spike” nor the “tube” is separated into “a first section and a second section by a frangible seal” as in applicant’s invention.

Silbert (US Patent No. 3,955,833) discloses a method and connecting device for sterile handling of fluids. The connecting device comprises of a tube having a membrane on an end and a tab means at the other end of the tube. A hollow connector means is adapted to fit in the tube

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and between the tab means. The hollow connector is movable in the tube between a first position in which the membrane is intact and a second position in which the hollow connector punctures the membrane. A second membrane covers the end of the hollow connector in the tube. A hollow needle is disposed in the hollow connector movable between a first position in which the second membrane is intact and a second position in which the second membrane is punctured by the hollow needle.

Bond (GB Patent No. 2 194 302 A) discloses a resilient pipe coupling comprising a resilient sleeve to seal a gap between an outer conduit and an inner conduit extending through the outer conduit. The gap between the two conduits is a direct result of the inside diameter of the outer conduit being larger than the outside diameter of the inner conduit. A sealable branch connector in communication with the interior of the resilient sleeve is provided between the two ends of the resilient sleeve. No seal is provided within the resilient sleeve.

Applicant's invention is a connector with frangible seal comprising a tubular cylinder separated into a first section and a second section by a frangible seal. The first section has an inside diameter that will receive a first tubular member with an outside diameter approximately equal to that of the inside diameter of a second tubular member received in the second section. When the two tubular members are urged toward each other the frangible seal separating the two tubular members will be fractured and the first tubular member will be inserted into the second tubular member. Applicant's invention has a unitary structure much simpler than the prior arts and is unique in that it has an integrated frangible seal in the connector separating the connector into two separate sections. Furthermore, when the frangible seal is fractured the first tubular

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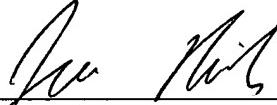
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member with an outside diameter approximately equal to that of the inside diameter of a second tubular member will be inserted into the second tubular member.

Applicant hereby submits that the claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and §103 have all been overcome. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,


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